



215545-01602

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
: Examiner: Unassigned
Peter Johannes Marie BAETS *et al.*)
: Group Art Unit: 1724
Application No.: 10/690,548)
: Confirmation No. 7955
Filed: October 23, 2003)
:
For: Separation of Biomass from Lactic-Acid Containing Fermentation Products by Means of Flocculation

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B. The listed documents were cited in the corresponding International Search Report or cited in the specification of the above-identified application. In accordance with current practice, copies of the listed U.S. Patent Documents will not be provided.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each, any, or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the present application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Further, Applicants reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied

as prior art against the claims of the present application.


In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3), since a first Official Action on the merits of the subject application has not yet been issued, neither a certificate, petition nor payment of a fee is believed to be required for this Information Disclosure Statement. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-1710.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the below-listed information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Serge Sira", written over a horizontal line.

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PATENT ADMINISTRATOR
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July 27, 2004

FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY DOCKET NO. 215545-01602		APPLICATION NO. 10/690,548	
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)		APPLICANT: Peter Johannes Marie BAETS <i>et al.</i>			
		FILING DATE October 23, 2003		GROUP 7955	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
		5,453,365	09/26/1995	STERZEL <i>et al.</i>	435	135	November 16, 1994
		5,766,439	06/16/1998	EYAL <i>et al.</i>	204	524	June 16, 1998

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
		WO 98/58072	12/23/1998	Great Britain			Abstract and Publication
		App. No. 59127499	06/22/1984	Japan			Abstract
		WO 98/37050	08/27/1998	Israel			Abstract and Publication

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	
	J. Hughes <i>et al.</i> , IMPROVED SEPARATION OF BACTERIA WITH A DUAL FLOCCULANT HYDROCOL™ SYSTEM, Biotechnology Techniques, Vol. 4 No. 4, pp. 233-236 (1990)

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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